

Amendment to the Claims

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) Horizontal continuous casting equipment for horizontal casting of metal, said equipment comprising an insulated reservoir for containing liquid metal, and a mold removably connected to said reservoir and defining an interior cavity, said mold comprising:

a mold housing;

permeable wall material provided along an interior wall of said mold housing, wherein thermal transfer through said permeable wall material provides primary cooling to the metal being cast;

at least one annular slit arranged along a circumference of the cavity for directly supplying coolant into the cavity, thereby providing secondary cooling to the metal being cast;

an insulating plate provided with through holes communicating said reservoir with the mold cavity;

a plurality of restricting elements provided between said permeable wall material and an interior wall of said mold housing so to form a plurality of sectors; and

at least two supply channels, provided in said mold housing, communicating with each of said sectors so that gas and oil can be separately supplied to each of said

sectors and through said permeable material so that the amount of oil and gas can be differentiated around the circumference of the mold cavity.

12. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 11, wherein said permeable wall material comprises two rings which are separated by means of a gasket.

13. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 11, wherein said plurality of sectors comprises an upper sector and a lower sector.

14. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 11, wherein said at least two supply channels comprises a gas supply channel and an oil supply channel, and said gas supply channel communicates with said respective sector nearer said insulating plate relative to said oil supply channel.

15. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 11, wherein a gas evacuation passage is provided in an upper part of said mold in order to permit evacuation of excess gas from the mold cavity.

16. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 11, wherein said permeable wall material comprises two rings and a sealing structure interposed between said two rings.

17. (Previously Presented) Horizontal continuous casting equipment for casting of aluminum, said equipment comprising an insulated reservoir for containing liquid metal, and a mold defining an interior cavity and being removably connected to said reservoir, said mold comprising:

 a mold housing;

 permeable wall material provided along an interior wall of said mold housing;

 a plurality of nozzles arranged along a circumference of the cavity for directly supplying coolant therethrough;

 an insulating plate connected to said mold housing and being provided with through holes communicating said reservoir with the mold cavity;

 a plurality of plugs provided between said permeable wall material and an interior wall of said mold housing so to form a plurality of sectors; and

 a plurality of supply channels provided in said mold housing, wherein at least two of said supply channels communicate with each of said sectors so that gas and oil can be separately supplied to each of said sectors and supplied through said permeable material into the interior mold cavity so that the supply of oil and gas can be varied around the circumference of the mold cavity.

18. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 17, wherein said permeable wall material comprises two rings which are separated by means of a gasket.

19. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 17, wherein said plurality of sectors comprises an upper sector and a lower sector.

20. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 17, wherein said at least two supply channels comprises a gas supply channel and an oil supply channel positioned so that gas will be supplied into the respective sector nearer to said insulating plate than will oil.

21. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 17, wherein a gas evacuation passage is provided in an upper part of said mold in order to permit evacuation of excess gas from the mold cavity.

22. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 17, wherein said permeable wall material comprises two rings and a sealing structure interposed between said two rings.

23. (Currently Amended) The equipment as claimed in claim 11, wherein said insulating plate includes a protrusion extending along a portion of said permeable wall material, and the primary cooling is varied depending on a length of said protrusion .

24. (Currently Amended) The equipment as claimed in claim 17, wherein said insulating plate includes a protrusion extending along a portion of said permeable wall material, and the primary cooling is varied depending on a length of said protrusion .

25. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 11, wherein said mold housing is formed of steel.

26. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 17, wherein said mold housing is formed of steel.

27. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 11, wherein said mold housing comprises first and second parts, and said first part of said mold housing surrounds said permeable wall material, and a thermally insulating annular plate is disposed against said first part of said mold housing to reduce thermal transfer to the mold cavity.

28. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 17, wherein said mold housing comprises first and second parts, and said first part of said mold housing surrounds said permeable wall material, and a thermally insulating annular plate is disposed against said first part of said mold housing to reduce thermal transfer to the mold cavity.

29. (New) The equipment as claimed in claim 11, wherein the gas and oil, which is supplied to said sectors and around the circumference of the mold cavity, lubricate the mold.

30. (New) The equipment as claimed in claim 17, wherein the gas and oil, supplied to the interior mold cavity, are provided to lubricate the mold.